

Claims

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1. A method for notifying a computer of changed files, comprising the steps of:
 - (a) identifying changes in a source file set;
 - (b) storing the identified changes in a modification list comprising uniform resource locators specifying the changed files; and
 - (c) transmitting the modification list to a computer.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein step (c) comprises transmitting the modification list to a web cache server.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the identifying step comprises the steps of:
 - inspecting a set of files; and
 - comparing the set of files to an earlier-recorded set.
4. The method of claim 3 wherein the comparing step comprises comparing a file attribute to the file attribute of the earlier-recorded set.
5. The method of claim 4 wherein the file attribute comprises at least one attribute chosen from the set of file size, file permissions, file ownership, modification time, and a hash of the file.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein the identifying step comprises the steps of:
 - installing a device driver to perform file operations; and
 - recording, by the device driver, changes to the source file set.
7. The method of claim 1 wherein the identifying step comprises:
 - receiving a manifest describing changes to the source file set.
8. The method of claim 1, further comprising, before the identifying step, the step of calling a script.
9. The method of claim 1, further comprising, before the transmitting step, the step of calling a script.
10. The method of claim 1, further comprising, after the transmitting step, the step of calling a script.
11. The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of determining whether the transmitting step has successfully completed, and wherein the calling step occurs after the

3 determining step.

12. A method for replicating changes in a source file set on a destination file system
and for notifying a computer of the changes, comprising the steps of:

- (a) identifying changes in a source file set;
- (b) storing the changes in a first modification list;
- (c) transmitting the first modification list to an agent having access to a destination file system;
- (d) storing the changes in a second modification list comprising uniform resource locators specifying the changed files; and
- (e) transmitting the second modification list to a computer.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein the computer is a web cache server.

14. The method of claim 12 further comprising, before step (d), the step of converting the first modification list into the second modification list

15. A method for replicating changes in a source file set on a destination file system
and for notifying a computer of the changes, comprising the steps of:

- (a) identifying changes in a source file set;
- (b) storing changes in a modification list comprising uniform resource locators specifying the changed files;
- (c) transmitting the modification list to an agent having access to a destination file system; and
- (d) transmitting the modification list to a computer.

16. A web service system, comprising:
a manager for managing the web service system;
a host comprising a web server for receiving web page requests and an agent in communication with the manager;
a web cache; and
a content distributor for providing content changes to the host.

17. The system of claim 16, further comprising a traffic manager for directing web page requests to the web server.

18. The system of claim 16, wherein the content distributor comprises:

~~identification
modification
transmission
the system~~

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